



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

August 20, 2019

Donald J. Trump
The President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Official Resignation of Joseph R. Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management

Dear Mr. President:

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you and the American people as the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management at the Department of the Interior. The Department is at the forefront of the Administration's efforts to bolster our economy through sound development, conservation, and preservation of our incredible natural resource wealth.

I have spent more than twenty years in public service focused on resource development at the state and national levels. Implementing your Executive Orders promoting energy independence and economic growth are a career highlight that I will one day tell my grandchildren about. Among the accomplishments of the Department in pursuit of your strategy, I have been able to play a role in:

- providing regulatory relief to the tune of \$2.5 billion in FY 2018;
- guiding the first-ever record of Joint Federal Decision on the Donlin Mine;
- approving the first-ever oil and gas production facility in federal waters off Alaska;
- increasing offshore safety while setting records for production from the Outer Continental Shelf;
- crafting a regulatory environment that helped create 60,000 new mining jobs in 2018; and
- preparing the environmental documents to support the first-ever oil and gas lease sale in the 1002 area of ANWR.

While much has been done, much more remains to do. By embracing your policies, we can realize the potential our domestic energy economy to strengthen our country through increased national security, job creation, and revenues for the American people. I am completely confident that Secretary Bernhardt and the professional men and women at the Department of the Interior will continue to faithfully carry out your vision for America's public lands.

I am officially resigning as the Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management at 5:00 pm on Friday, August 30, 2019. I pledge my full cooperation and effort to undertake a smooth transition.

I very much appreciate the opportunity you have provided me to serve the nation.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Balash